

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5844

UNCLAS LONDON 15146

THE FOL BELFAST TEL RECD ACTION LONDON INFO DUBLIN NOV 15TH IS
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

UNCLAS BELFAST 189

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: U.K. (N.I.) EGEN, EAGR

SUBJECT: VETERINARY INSPECTION

REF: STATE 248993

1. ABBEY MEAT PACKERS WHITE ABBEY NEWTOWN ABBEY DISTRICT
NORTHERN IRELAND DOES TWELVE MILLION POUNDS STERLING ANNUAL
BUSINESS EXPORTING MEAT TO ENGLAND, COMMON MARKET, GREECE AND
PORTUGAL. COMPANY INVITED EACH MONTH BID TO SUPPLY U.S.
ARMED FORCES EUROPE WITH BEEF. IN FEBRUARY 1974 ABBEY WON
CONTRACT AND PROCESSED ONE SHIPMENT PER WEEK FOR FOUR WEEKS.
VETERINARY TEAM HEADED BY AIR FORCE COL. WISE STATIONED DUBLIN
SPENT THREE DAYS EACH WEEK FEBRUARY INSPECTING SHIPMENTS.
ABBAY PACKERS CONGRATULATED FOR PERFORMANCE. BIDS UNSUCCESSFUL
MARCH APRIL AND BECAUSE OF ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL STRIKE DID
NOT BID MAY AND JUNE. WON TENDER FOR JULY 1974. MESSAGE FROM
HEADQUARTERS HAGUE RECEIVED STATION "PERMISSION CANNOT BE GRANTED
FOR VETERINARY INSPECTORS TO GO INTO NORTHERN IRELAND".

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MESSAGE INQUIRED WHETHER PLANT COULD PROCESS MEAT UK MAINLAND OR

IN REPUBLIC IRELAND. CONTRACT UNFULFILLED.

2. ABBEY PACKER OFFICIALS BELIEVE VETERINARY INSPECTORS CONTINUE VISIT LONDONDERY AREA FOR INSPECTION MEAT PROCURED FOR U.S. NAVY. FEBRUARY CONTRACT WORTH POUNDS STERLING FORTY FIVE THOUSAND AND PLANT OFFICIALS BELIEVE THEY CAN CONTINUE COMPETE SUCCESSFULLY FOR ARMED FORCES CONTRACT WITH RESULTANT POSSIBLE INCREASE HALF MILLION POUNDS STERLING IN ANNUAL VOLUME BUSINESS. ACCORDING PLANT OFFICIALS THERE AVERAGE TWO INSPECTORS ON SITE EACH WEEK FROM SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, FRANCE AND ITALY. THEY ALSO STATE THEIR COMPLAINT NOT RPT NOT RAISED WITH MEMBER PARLIAMENT BUT THROUGH AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OFFICE NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS. THEY CLAIM THAT THEY DID NOT RPT NOT WANT "FORCE ISSUE" BUT MENTIONED PARLIAMENTARY INTERCESSION AS ALTERNATIVE TOGETHER WITH INVOLVEMENT TWO AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES OF UNION INTERNATIONAL AND INTERCESSION THROUGH TRADE UNION. THERE 300 WORKERS ABBEY MEAT ALLEGEDLY HALF CATHOLIC HALF PROTESTANT AND ALL MEMBERS UNION OF SHOP DISTRIBUTORS AND ALLIED WORKERS. BESIDES MONETARY VALUE ARMED FORCES MARKET, ABBEY PACKERS PROUD OF ACHIEVEMENT IN SUPPLY MILITARY AND HAVE MADE FACT OF ABILITY MEET HIGH USG STANDARDS SELLING POINT WITH OTHER CUSTOMERS.

3. IN FEBRUARY VISITS VETERINARY INSPECTION TEAM STAYED ABBEYLANDS TEMPERANCE HOTEL DIRECTLY ACROSS ROAD FROM NEWTOWNABBIE ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY (RUC) STATION. ACCORDING RUC CHIEF AND DEPUTY INSPECTORS THERE NO RPT NOT HISTORY OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS THIS HOTEL. THEY STATE ALSO AREA IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING ABBEY MEAT PLANT HAS BEEN CLEARED TO PREVENT CONCEALMENT OF POTENTIAL TERRORISTS.

4. NEWTOWNABBIE AREA IN GENERAL HAS HISTORY CONSIDERABLE VIOLENCE SINCE 1969. THERE 24 MURDERS OF POLITICAL NATURE SINCE 1972. TWO OF THESE WERE WORKERS AT ABBEY MEAT PLANT WHO KILLED FEBRUARY 1974 AND WHO, ACCORDING RUC, HAD HISTORY IRA INVOLVEMENT. RUC OFFICIALS ASSERT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY AMERICAN CITIZENS POTENTIAL TERRORIST TARGETS NEWTOWNABBIE. THEY STRESSED AREA ABBEY PLANT PATROLLED REGULARLY PARTICULARLY AT BEGINNING AND CLOSE BUSINESS. THEY VOLUNTEERED MAKE "SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS" FOR PROTECTION AMERICANS IF NOTIFIED OF ITINERARY. SPICER UNQUOTE
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